Back in first, Raiders defeat Altavista, 27-6

The Raider varsity football team recorded their eighth win of this season Friday night, a 27-6 victory over Altavista.

And, while the Raiders were winning against Altavista, Nelson County and Brookville were battling to a 14-14 tie. As a result Brookville, who took the lead in the Seminole District race after their 20-16 victory against Appomattox Oct. 29, fell back to second place, a half game behind the district-leading Raiders.

Pete Melvor, Steve Hamlett and Kevin Ferguson all scored in the first quarter for the Raiders against Altavista. Appomatto had a 20-0 lead going into the locker room at the end of the first half, and many of the starters rested during the second half of play.

Alan Edmonds scored on a 40-yard touchdown pass from reserve quarterback Paul Johnson in the third quarter, giving the Raiders a 27-0 advantage. Altavista's Booker Payne scored from four yards out in the fourth quarter to complete the game's scoring.

"Overall, we were pleased with the team's play," said Raider Coach Gary Cuccio after the game. The Raiders had a total of 350 yards offense, including 178 on the ground and 172 passing.

Cuccio named as players of the week for their outstanding performances Robert Paulette (eight tackles, 10 assists), Ricky Miller (five tackles, 10 assists), Greg Mayberry (three receptions, 93 yards; seven tackles and nine assists on defense), and Gary Ferguson (five carries, 65 yards; and two tackles, five assists and one interception on defense).

This Friday night, the Raiders will face off against William Campbell, a team with a 5-4 record (4-4 district) which was defeated by a surging Gretna team Friday night.

"William Campbell has one of the best lines in the district," Coach Cuccio said of this week's opponent. "They also have in Morris Pennell an excellent running back."

If the Raiders win their final game of the season against William Campbell this Friday night, they will advance to the regional playoffs as the Seminole District champions. In addition, if the Raiders win Friday night, the regionals will be played in Appomattox.

The four-team regional playoff will include the district champions from the Seminole, Blue Ridge and Piedmont Districts, as well as a wild-card team, which will be picked from one of the three districts represented in the region.

However, any post-season play could hinge on the Raiders' success this Friday night against William Campbell.

Raider Review

By Jennifer Inge

Foreign language students have found a new way to learn while helping other students. Advanced Spanish students go to the Appomattox Middle School to teach other students some basic Spanish.

The class is part of the school's Gifted and Talented Program which is taught by Mrs. Wilson. At this time, the class consists only of eighth grade students. It is taught every other Thursday by fourth year Spanish students, Amber Clark, Jennifer Inge, Susan Morris, and Lisa Puckett.

"Spanish students benefit from teaching the class in that it helps them review and apply the Spanish skills they have learned," stated Mrs. McKay, Spanish IV teacher. She also feels that the Gifted and Talented students benefit because it "will give them ideas about Spanish and help them decide if they want to take Spanish in high school." Mrs. Wilson, G & T teacher, stated that she believed that the class will also benefit the G & T students in that they "will develop an interest for Spanish earlier."

Amber, Lisa, and Susan all feel that teaching the class benefits them because they are able to review and remember things they had learned earlier in Spanish. Susan Morris also stated that by teaching the class she was "provided with the good experience of being in front of people." The Spanish IV students also agree that the G&T students are provided with a head start on high school Spanish.

The foreign language program has provided younger students with an opportunity to get some basic background in Spanish. The students are quick to learn and understand the information they are given.

JAYVEE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK following the victory over Altavista included Jeff Williams, Russell Walton, and (not shown) Andre McCoy, Alex Almond and Ron Scruggs.

Jayvees beat Altavista in last home game

In their final home game of this season, the Raider junior varsity football team caught fire in the second half to defeat Altavista, 24-8.

The first half was a defensive struggle, with each team having trouble moving the football. In the second quarter on a fourth-down play, the Raiders went into a seldom-used shotgun formation and quarterback Alex Almond connected with Russell Walton across the middle for a touchdown, and the Raiders held a 6-0 lead at the end of the first half.

The Raiders went more to their passing game in the second half, and Almond threw touchdown passes to split end Andre McCoy and tailback Ron Scruggs. The Raiders scored once more on an eight-yard run by Russell Walton.

Coach Howard Clabough sent in the reserves to finish out the fourth quarter. "The team has really improved the last three weeks, and is playing up to their potential now," Clabough said of the jayvee Raiders.

The offense was led by Alex Almond (six for 11 passing, including three touchdowns and 93 yards), Ronald Scruggs (15 carries for 83 yards, two completed passes for 33 yards, one touchdown), and Russell Walton (11 carries for 55 yards, one touchdown on the ground and another on a pass).

Clabugh noted that the team showed a balanced offensive attack, with 150 yards on the ground and 127 in the air for a total of 227 yards offense.

"The whole defensive team played well," the coach added. "They were led by Walton with 14 tackles, Jeff Williams with 11 tackles, and Andre McCoy and Ron Scruggs, with six tackles each."

"The Raiders, with a record of 4-4-1, were scheduled to play Amelia County High School yesterday (Wednesday) for their season-ending game.

Players identified as outstanding following the Altavista game included Jeff Williams, who did a "fine job blocking" and had 11 tackles on defense, according to the coach; Andre McCoy, who caught one touchdown pass and had six tackles on defense; Alex Almond, who went six for 11 passing (three touchdowns); Ron Scruggs, who carried 15 times for 83 yards and had one touchdown pass; and Russell Walton, who had 11 carries for 55 yards, and had two touchdowns.

Raiderettes set for tournament

The Raiderette varsity basketball team defeated Rustburg to end their regular season last Thursday, after losing a hard-fought contest Tuesday to Buckingham, 36-33.

The Raiderettes held a slight advantage, 13-10, at the end of the first half in Tuesday's game against the Lady Knights. In the second half, however, Buckingham had a good rebounding effort, and picked up some points on good outside shooting. Sandra Watkins and Ruby Smith both scored in double figures for Appomattox, with 18 and 10 points, respectively. Cheryl Williams and Kaye Browne, with three and two points, respectively, also scored for the Raiderettes against Buckingham.

For the Lady Knights, Johnice Brown was leading scorer with 13 points. Alice Apperson had nine points, Evonne Allen had eight and Margaret Bartee had six for Buckingham.

Thursday's 50-26 victory for the Raiderettes against Rustburg resulted from a "strong defensive effort and good offensive movement," according to Coach Mary Tolley.

"It was our last home game, and our seniors played exceptionally well," commented Tolley. She commended Ruby Smith, who scored 26 points, had four rebounds, five steals and four assists. Senior Robin Paulette had four points, three rebounds, one steal and five assists; senior Cheryl Williams had one point, five rebounds, and two assists.

Sandra Watkins had 10 points, five rebounds, three steals and one assist; Kaye Brown had two points, 14 rebounds, three steals, two assists and one blocked shot; and Sally Coleman had one point and four rebounds against Rustburg.

The Raiderettes, who finished fifth in the district with a 9-9 record, were scheduled to face off against Buckingham Wednesday evening at 8:30 at Liberty High School in the Seminole District tournament.

The winner of that game will play the winner of the Liberty-William Campbell game tonight (Thursday) at 6:30 p.m.

The district finals will be held Saturday night at Liberty High School, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

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